

U.S. EPA FACT SHEET

Proposed Approval of California's Request to Redesignate San Diego County to Attainment for the 1997 Ozone Standard

March 14, 2013

Summary

- EPA is proposing to approve California's request to redesignate the San Diego County ozone nonattainment area to attainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (1997 ozone standard).
- EPA is also proposing to approve the State's plan, along with related inventories and motor vehicle emissions budgets, for maintaining attainment of the 1997 ozone standard for ten years beyond redesignation.

Background

- In April 2004, EPA designated San Diego County as nonattainment for the 1997 ozone standard. Today's proposed actions are partly based on upon complete, quality-assured, and certified ambient air quality monitoring data from 2009-2011 showing that San Diego County has attained and continues to attain the 1997 ozone standard.
- In proposing to approve the State's redesignation request and maintenance plan for San Diego County, EPA has concluded that the area has met the criteria for redesignation in section 107(d)(3)(E) of the Clean Air Act and requirements for maintenance plans and contingency provisions in section 175A of the Clean Air Act.
- Substantial reductions, 15% for volatile organic compounds and 25% for nitrogen oxides, in emissions inventories for mobile source (e.g., cars and trucks) occurred between 2002 and 2011. This significantly helped San Diego attain the 1997 ozone standard. Reductions after 2011 from these and other mobile source categories will further reduce the emissions inventories and ensure continued attainment through 2025.
- Today's action signifies a milestone for continued air quality improvement in San Diego County accomplished through the joint efforts of the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District, California Air Resources Board, and EPA to protect public health.
- Today's action only concerns the 1997 ozone NAAQS. Despite today's significant milestone in terms of the 1997 ozone standard, the area still remains nonattainment for the more stringent 2008 ozone standard.

- Exposures to ozone can reduce lung function, making it more difficult for people to breathe, especially for those with lung disease, such as children with asthma and older adults. Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but forms through a reaction of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight.

Next Steps

- Today's proposed actions will be published in the Federal Register in approximately two weeks and include a 30-day period for public comment.
- After the close of the comment period, EPA will evaluate and respond to comments in subsequent rulemaking action.

For More Information:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/actions/ca.html>